

REMARKS

Claims 2-20 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 2-6, 8, 12-15 and 17-18 are amended, and claims 1 and 21-27 are canceled without prejudice. Applicants will pursue the canceled claims in a continuation application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the following remarks.

Entry of the above amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 (a) in that the above Amendment (1) places the claims in condition for allowance; (2) places the claims in better condition for consideration on appeal, if necessary; (3) does not raise any new issues; and (4) does not add new claims without canceling a corresponding number of claims. For the reasons given above, entry of the above amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is respectfully requested.

I. Record of Telephone Conference with Examiner Bashore

Examiner Bashore spoke with the undersigned, Jodi L. Hartman, and Christopher J. Leonard on March 16, 2004, regarding the final rejection of claims 1-14, 17-18 and 21-27 over the prior art references Word 97 and Karaali. Examiner Bashore suggested amending the claims to clarify the recitation of a "stochastic input source" to overcome the prior art references.

II. Formal Matters

Claims 15-16 and 19-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, dependent claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form including at least the features specified in canceled claim 1 and, thus, is in allowable condition. Dependent claim 16 is allowable based on its dependency on amended claim 15, and dependent claims 19-20 are allowable based on their dependencies on claim 16, which is dependent on amended claim 15. For at least these reactions, claims 15-16 and 19-20 are allowable, and the objections to these claims should be withdrawn.

III. Prior Art Rejections

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-14, 17-18 and 21-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft Word 97 (hereinafter "Word 97") in view of United States Patent No. 6,182,028 to Karaali et al. (hereinafter "Karaali"). As discussed above, claims 1 and 21-27 have been canceled. Dependent claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to include at least the features specified in canceled claim 1 and, thus, is in allowable condition. Claims 2-6, 8, 12-14 and 17-18 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 15, as illustrated above. Claim 7 depends from amended claim 6, which depends from allowable claim 15. Claims 9-11 depend from amended claim 8, which depends from allowable claim 15. For at least these reasons, claims 2-14 and 17-18 are allowable over Word 97 in view of Karaali.

CONCLUSION

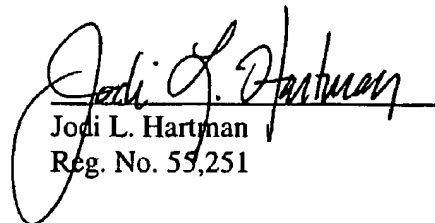
For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that the pending claims 2-20 are in condition for allowance. The Applicants further assert that this response addresses each and every point of the final Office Action, and respectfully requests that the Examiner pass this application with claims 2-20 to allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at 404.954.5042.



Merchant & Gould
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
Telephone: 404.954.5100

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD, LLC


Jodi L. Hartman
Reg. No. 55,251

BEST AVAILABLE COPY